JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION Sworn Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings

Master-in-Equity (New Candidate)

Full Name:

William Henry Sloan, Jr.

Business Address:

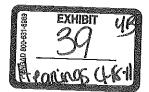
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- 1. Do you plan to serve your full term if appointed? Yes (except for severe personal illness of myself, my wife or my son or appointment to a higher judiciary position which I do not plan on seeking)
- 2. If appointed, do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? No. certainly not before my term expires.
- 3. Have you met the Constitutional requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice? Yes, Please note: I understand that it is not a requirement that I reside in Dorchester County to be eligible. I live in Berkeley County, 2 miles from Dorchester County and my office is in Dorchester County. I am a taxpayer of the Town of Summerville and Dorchester County since my office is located there. I am an active member of the Dorchester County Community through Summerville Kiwanis and my former membership in Dorchester-Summerville Chamber of Commerce. I think my non-residency in Dorchester County should not be an issue in my candidacy. I do anticipate moving to Dorchester County by the end of my term so that my infant son may be eligible to attend Dorchester County Schools, District 2.
- 4. What is your philosophy regarding ex parte communications? Are there circumstances under which you could envision ex parte communications being tolerated? I am certainly against them, especially in the type of matters I would deal with. There may be situations where they would tolerated but I cannot think of a specific example.
- 5. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you? I have no former law partners, or former associates. I believe I could be impartial both ways for a lawyer-legislator. I would consult others on this issue in a case by case basis if I thought I would need to.



6. If you disclosed something that had the appearance of bias, but you believed it would not actually prejudice your impartiality, what deference would you give a party that requested your recusal? Would you grant such a motion? As long as the rest of the case seemed to go with both parties comfortable with my objectivity, I would be hesitant to grant a Motion. If, on the other hand, it was obvious that one party was not comfortable with me continuing on the case, I probably would grant the Motion to recuse myself.

7. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? I would discourage gifts or hospitality. Such gifts would have to be very small for me to accept them, so small that it would not matter to me financially whether I got the gift or hospitality or not. I anticipate that my salary would be comfortable enough to the point where I would need not worry about accepting

gifts or hospitality.

8. How would you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or of a fellow judge? If the misconduct were something innocent and unintentional and something not likely to happen again, a quiet admonishment may be the best way to handle it. However, I would follow the Rules of Professional Conduct as I understand them if I think I am compelled to report a violation. Also, I would not hesitate to ask for advice if necessary in a close call on an ethical issue as I have in the past.

9. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions that would need to be evaluated if you are appointed? No

10. Have you engaged in any fund-raising activities with any political, social, community, or religious organizations? No, except for the fund-raisers related to Kiwanis Summerville to raise funds for our benevolent projects in the community. Our charity is devoted to children and related matters. If at all possible, I would like to finish my presidency of Kiwanis Summerville which expires October 1, 2011. In my attempts to fund-raise for Kiwanis and recruit members, I would be clear that joining or helping Kiwanis would not lead to something unethical in return. I would avoid even the appearance of impropriety in raising funds for our Kiwanis fund-raisers which is a golf tournament in May and a run in October.

11. If appointed, how would you handle the drafting of orders? I would ask the winning party typically to draft an Order. Before I would want to see it, I would have the winner submit it to the loser and have them engage in "back and forth" until they timely agreed on the Order consistent with my ruling. If the parties could not timely agree, I would write my own Order either from scratch or using the best of the lawyer's orders I would not ask a pro-se litigant to draft an Order.

- 12. If appointed, what method would you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? I use Microsoft Outlook Calendar with prompting for deadlines which works for deadlines as a lawyer. I would also have a large desk calendar for a "paper" backup as I do with my practice. I am open to suggestions if there is a better way. But I believe in a computer diary-tickler system with a paper back-up. Also, when I worked for Bernstein & Bernstein, they used a tickler system as I served as their collections paralegal. Each open file would have a deadline-reminder. Each Monday morning, we would print out a report with all the files that needed follow up and all open files that somehow did not have a deadline. This was called Collection Master. A system like this would work as well.
- 13. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? A judge interprets, does not make the law. This is the U.S. Constitution and my philosophy as a member of the Federalist Society. I must be bound by precedent if precedent exists as I understand it. If any such setting or promoting public policy is set by the Judicial branch, it must be done by the Appellate Divisions, not a judge at the trial level. The Administrative Order of Chief Justice Toal of 2009 is a good example of public policy with regards to foreclosures. At the same time, Chief Justice Toal was following the "HMP" guidelines on foreclosures as she understood them.
- 14. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. What activities do you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system? I would like to speak to law schools, high schools, grade schools and groups like Kiwanis and Rotary about the judicial system and my role as an equity judge. If there was time after my duties as judge, my wife and infant son, and Kiwanis, I would consider judging a trial competition for a non-jury trial at law school or high school.
- 15. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge will strain personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How would you plan to address this? It may, but no more than being a sole practitioner lawyer does now. I am most concerned about my wife and infant son. I have discussed this application with my wife and my mother-in-law (our No. 1 babysitter) and she supports it fully. Were they not 100% behind me and this attempt, I would not apply for the position.
- 16. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality?
- 17. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a *de minimis* financial interest in a party involved? Only if the financial

interest were very insignificant, so small the family member would not care. If the other party were seriously concerned about my objectivity, I would lean toward recusing myself. Even the appearance of unfairness and impartiality is something to take seriously.

- 18. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender? No
- 19. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses? Yes
- 20. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge? Firm, serious, approachable, engaged, respectful, knowledgeable, calm, fair, even-handed.
- 21. Do the rules that you expressed in your previous answer apply only while you are on the bench or in chambers, or do these rules apply seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day? No, e.g. I like to sleep every day, but not on the bench. e.g. I like to be non-serious when I play with my infant son or I am with close friends or close family. While being light-hearted occasionally may be sometimes appropriate on the bench, it is generally not appropriate in the serious matters before the Equity Court. On the other hand, I should always have integrity 24-7, for example.
- 22. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public appearing before you? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant? Only if a party or attorney is being seriously disrespectful of the office or the Court or another party. This type of anger should be rare and if even if being angry is justified, it must be kept under control and be proportionate and I must stay under control myself even if a lawyer or party or pro-se litigant is not.
- 23. How much money have you spent on your campaign? If the amount is over \$100, has that been reported to the House and Senate Ethics Committees? Approximately \$20. I spent \$10 to get fingerprints and an estimated \$10 in postage.
- 24. If you are a sitting judge, have you used judicial letterhead or the services of your staff while campaigning for this office? N-a
- 25. Have you sought or received the pledge of any legislator prior to this date? No.
- 26. Have you sought or been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? No..
- 27. Have you asked any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No.
- 28. Have you contacted any members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission? No.

29. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges for 48 hours after the draft report has been submitted? Yes.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

S/W. William Henry Sloan, Jr.

Sworn to before me this 28th day of February, 2011.

Notary Public for S.C.

My Commission Expires: 3/24/20